

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A punching apparatus for punching holes in an article, comprising:

a main body for receiving therein said article and configured to be depressed in a levering action to exert a punching force on said article to punch holes;

a roller bearing for transmitting a depressing force to said main body by depressing said main body to provide said punching force in response to an external force; and

a non-linear levering rod comprising a force-receiving portion for being applied thereonto said external force, a pivot portion coupled to said main body for allowing said levering rod to pivot relative to said main body in response to said external force, a bent portion connected to said force-receiving portion and said pivot portion, wherein the levering rod is substantially linear between the pivot portion and the bent portion and wherein the levering rod is substantially linear between the force-receiving portion and the bent portion and wherein the levering rod between the force-receiving portion and the bent portion is kept ~~for keeping said force-receiving portion~~ at a substantially horizontal level in a rest state, a depressing-force exerting portion disposed only between said pivot portion and said bent portion and coupled to said roller bearing for transmitting said roller bearing to move, said non-linear levering rod transmitting said roller bearing to depress said main body while moving in response to said external force.

17. (Original) The punching apparatus according to claim 16 wherein said bent portion has a distance from said force-receiving portion farther than from said pivot portion.

18. (Previously presented) The punching apparatus according to claim 16 wherein said roller bearing rests on said main body when no external force is exerted on said force-receiving portion.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously presented) The punching apparatus according to claim 16 wherein said bent portion has an angle from 135 to 170 degrees.

21. (Previously presented) The punching apparatus according to claim 16 wherein said bent portion has an angle from 145 to 160 degrees.

22. (Currently amended) A punching apparatus for punching holes in an article, comprising:

a main body for receiving therein said article and configured to be depressed in a levering action to exert a punching force on said article to punch holes;

a roller bearing for transmitting a depressing force to said main body by depressing said main body to provide said punching force in response to an external force; and

a non-linear levering rod comprising a force-receiving portion for being applied thereonto said external force, a pivot portion coupled to said main body for allowing said levering rod to pivot relative to said main body in response to said external force, a bent portion connected to said force-receiving portion and said pivot portion, wherein the levering rod is substantially linear between the pivot portion and the bent portion and wherein the levering rod is substantially linear between the force-receiving portion and the bent portion and wherein the levering rod between the force-receiving portion and the bent portion is kept ~~for keeping said force-receiving portion~~ at a substantially horizontal level in a rest state, a depressing-force exerting portion coupled to said roller bearing for transmitting said roller bearing to move and wherein said depressing-force exerting portion and said roller bearing are disposed between said pivot portion and said bent portion, said non-linear levering rod transmitting said roller bearing to depress said main body while moving in response to said external force.

23. (Previously presented) The punching apparatus according to claim 22 wherein said bent portion has a distance from said force-receiving portion farther than from said pivot portion.

24. (Previously presented) The punching apparatus according to claim 22 wherein said roller bearing rests on said main body when no external force is exerted on said force-receiving portion.

25. (Previously presented) The punching apparatus according to claim 22 wherein said bent portion has an angle from 135 to 170 degrees.

26. (Previously presented) The punching apparatus according to claim 22 wherein said bent portion has an angle from 145 to 160 degrees.